

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule



The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Dec. 14, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

ACS announces 'Holiday Sponsor Program'

With the holiday season fast approaching and the nation still fighting the War on Terrorism, the APG community is constantly reminded of the great sacrifices of the men and women in the U.S. armed forces. During these stressful times, some military families are experiencing financial difficulties and require additional assistance. Army Community Service works closely with these families providing supportive services throughout the year.

To make this holiday season a little bit brighter for some of these families, ACS is collecting donations from individuals or groups desiring to sponsor a military family.

For more information, call Arcelio V. Alleyne, ACS Financial Readiness program manager, 410-278-2450/7572, fax, 410-306-2293 or e-mail, arcelio.alleyne@usag.apg.army.mil.

Garrison unit holds coat drive

Cold weather is here and there are many in need of a winter coat or jacket.

Help someone in need by donating a new or gently used coat to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison winter coat drive through Dec. 15.

Coats, winter clothing and food items can be dropped off at Army Community Service building 2754, the Post Chapel, the Commissary, Top of the Bay, and in buildings 4305 and 305.

Coats and clothing should be clean and food items non-perishable. Items will be donated to Harford County Social Services.

For more information, call Candace Hollingsworth, 410-278-3000 or Staff Sgt. William Benjamin, 410-278-3539.

Clinic offers pet vaccine, micro-chip clinic

Effective Jan. 1, all privately owned dogs and cats residing on the installation must be micro-chipped.

See SHORTS, page 7

Mikulski brings innovation tour to APG

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Touting the successful conclusion of a push to "keep America strong" via high tech jobs and partnerships between the commercial sector and Aberdeen Proving Ground technology organizations, U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski announced the dedication of \$1.5 million to the Aberdeen Technology Transfer Initiative, or ATTI, program during a visit to the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center Dec. 1.

As a member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Mikulski supported the allocation of funds to boost the ATTI, an economic development program designed to increase cooperation between APG's research laboratories and private sector companies and entrepreneurs.

The stop in at APG was one of several on her innovation tour of Maryland installations.

"I'm here today to announce our budget is complete," Mikulski said. "I've brought my innovation tour to Edgewood to highlight the work being done to keep America strong – developing smarter tools for our military with high tech jobs for Harford and Cecil counties and public-private partnerships for innovation."

Maj. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Research,



Edgewood Chemical Biological Center research scientist Dr. Vicky Bevilacqua, left, looks on as Jim Zarzycki, ECBC technical director, center, thanks U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, right, for her support of the Aberdeen Technology Transfer Initiative program during her innovation tour of the Aberdeen Proving Ground facility Dec. 1.

Development and Engineering Command; Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander; Jim Zarzycki, technical director of ECBC; and Ronald Kaese, senior program manager, Maryland Technology

Development Corporation, escorted Mikulski.

"We are focused on innovation, looking at real changes as well as government needs," Kaese said. "Our thanks go out to Senators Mikulski and [Paul] Sarbanes for supporting

us and getting us the funding necessary to move forward."

Zarzycki added that Mikulski was also instrumental in the funding of ECBC's Dr. Edward J. Pozioemek Advanced Chemistry Laboratory, a \$46 million facility designed

for working with the world's most super toxic compounds, where the tour was held.

"This is in fact the finest state of the art facility in the world because of you, Senator Mikulski," Zarzycki said.

See MIKULSKI, page 13

APG holds public meeting Dec. 15

APG Public Affairs Office

Aberdeen Proving Ground and the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project have proposed moving a World War I-era 75 mm mustard-filled munition recovered Oct. 20 from a clamshell processing plant in Delaware to APG to further evaluate and test recovered chemical warfare materiel.

Following coordination with the states of Maryland and Delaware and outreach to the community surrounding APG, the proposal recommends Army experts from the 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) escort the munition from its temporary secured storage at Dover Air Force Base, Del., to secured storage at APG.

An open house to discuss this proposal will be held at the Edgewood Senior Center 7 to 9 p.m., Dec. 15.

Post officials said the round presents a unique opportunity to conduct treatability studies, providing valuable information on accessing and neutralizing this type of barnacle-encrusted munition.

Testing the item before destruction enables NSCMP to look at the impact of a marine environment on the metal casing, and obtain data on

chemical agent degradation after decades at sea.

NSCMP, which is part of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, safely and effectively destroyed two 75 mm mustard-filled munitions at Dover Air Force Base in October 2004 and August 2005, using the Explosive Destruction System. However, these items were not barnacle encrusted.

Several systems will be used during the testing and destruction of the item. First, the Munitions Assessment and Processing System, a facility located in a secured area of APG, will be used to drill into the munition and extract the chemical agent. The chemical agent will be analyzed in a secure laboratory on post to determine agent degradation after decades at sea, then will be neutralized. The remaining munition body will be processed through the EDS, which will open the munition with an explosive cutting charge.

For more information about NSCMP, call 410-436-3445/7491 or visit the CMA Web site, <http://www.cma.army.mil/nscmp.aspx>.

For more information on the meeting, contact the APG Public Affairs Office, 410-278-1147, or NSCMP Public Affairs Office, 410-436-3445/7491.

Gang educators inform APG community



Courtesy of HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

This is an example of gang attire typical throughout the United States.

Rebecca J. Chisholm
APG News

Two officers from the Harford County Sheriff's Office met with children and parents at the Aberdeen Youth Center Nov. 21 to educate them about the presence of gangs in the surrounding community.

Because this is an issue of importance to parents and youths, APG leadership invited the Sheriff's Office to share their knowledge with the APG community.

"APG has long been a reserved, quiet and safe com-

munity to live, with few instances of any type of gang activity," said Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander. "Our goal is to keep it that way. By combining forces and sharing knowledge with local law enforcement, our own Directorate of Law Enforcement and Safety personnel will maintain vigilance against any type of gang crime while protecting the APG community."

Cpl. Casimir Alkanowski and Deputy 1st Class Melissa Klein presented a program focused on the recent spike in

gang activity along the Route 40 corridor.

Advising parents to "keep an open mind and an open eye" to their children, Alkanowski described the gang culture, dangers and warning signs, in the hopes that the youths and parents in attendance would recognize and avoid troublesome situations.

"The primary gang color in Aberdeen is blue," said Alkanowski, as the color of the Crips gang is blue. "If they think you're affiliated with

See GANGS, page 13

APG Implements Sexual Assault Prevention, Response Plan

ACS

The Acting Secretary of the Army approved the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Action Plan Aug. 19 and directed that it be implemented throughout the Army.

"Efforts are ongoing at Aberdeen Proving Ground to ensure 100-percent compliance with policy directives, which emphasize prevention awareness education, confidential reporting options, and the availability and provision of quality services to active duty victims of sexual assault," said Celestine Beckett, Army Community Service officer and installation sexual assault response coordinator.

Chapter 8 of Army Regulation 600-20 (draft), Army Command Policy, provides guidelines for the implementation of a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program to ensure an appropriate installation response to victims of sexual assault, and to help pave the way for an appropriate response on APG.

The SAPRP falls under the management of Army Community Service, and offers an array of services to victims, which include a 24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline, hospital accompaniment and law enforcement, command and legal advocacy.

In an effort to ensure that all active duty military members who are victims of sexual assault get the help they need during a very difficult time, the Department of the Army has instituted a confidentiality policy allowing victims the right not to report the sexual assault to command or law enforcement, however they can still obtain medical, counseling and advocacy assistance as needed.

"Victims need to know that help is available whether or not they choose to report the incident to command or law enforcement," said Aida E. Rivera, family advocacy program manager and installation victim advocate.

Under restricted reporting, command, law enforcement personnel, and other military authorities will not be notified that an assault has occurred.

Medical treatment may be given and even forensic evidence collected without triggering an official investigation.

If a report has not been made unrestricted within one year of evidence collection, evidence will be destroyed and no longer available for future prosecution efforts.

For restricted reporting to take place, victims of sexual assault should contact Medical Treatment Facility staff, the ACS Family Advocacy Sexual Assault Response coordinator, the Unit Victim Advocate, or a chaplain, request assistance and state that they want to exercise their right to restricted reporting.

There are some exceptions to the confidentiality policy. In those instances where the victim's or another person's safety is in imminent danger, confidentiality is deemed waived.

For additional information on reporting options, or for advocacy assistance, contact Celestine Beckett, SARC, 410-278-2500/7478 during duty hours, or 410-652-6530 or 410-322-7154 after duty hours.

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FCC provider certifications create openings on APG



Edgewood Family Child Care provider Kerry Bechtel plays a game with her son Jaron, 2, left, and toddler Madison Shirley, age 1 and a half, in the play area of her Edgewood home.

Story and photos by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Thanks to a continuing commitment to provide safe and caring environments for the children of the installation’s working parents, new Family Child Care providers have been certified and are ready to take on customers in Aberdeen and Edgewood.

Military spouses Chaka Martin and Ferneda Morelos in Aberdeen and Kerry Bechtel in Edgewood are just three of the installations recently certified providers.

Beverly Hartgrove, training and curriculum specialist, Child and Youth Services Division, said that peace of mind for working parents means knowing that while they are at work their children are being cared for in safe environments.

“This is the role of the Family Child Care provider,” Hartgrove said.

The three providers come from different backgrounds, but have the same main interest in common – their love for children.

Kerry Bechtel

The wife of Sgt. Scott Bechtel of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion, Kerry is the mother of two sons, Trent, 8, and 2-year old Jaron.

Bechtel’s living room has been converted into a play area for toddlers and she said she made several other changes to conform to FCC standards, including outlet covers around all electrical outlets and gates around the kitchen and at the stairwells.

“Our training was very thorough,” Bechtel said. “They covered everything from CPR to developmental skills to identifying signs of child abuse or neglect.”

She said that with one slot filled, she is looking to take on more.

“Preferably one more toddler and one older child,” she said. “Hopefully the older one can help teach the younger ones how to share and play together. That will be just enough for me because I want to be able to hold them as much

as they need to be held.”

Chaka Martin

Martin is the wife of Staff Sgt. David Martin of the 61st Ordnance Brigade. A former Soldier who did four years in the Army, Martin said she understands the importance of reliable child-care from the Soldier and spouse perspectives.



Chaka Martin, an FCC provider in Aberdeen, enjoys a humorous moment with her young wards, from left, Skylar Martin, 5, and two 5-month olds, Kenneth Thomas, in safety seat, and Jaylor Rogers.

“It’s one less thing you [a parent] have to worry about,” she said.

And as for being an FCC provider, “You have to have patience and really love what you’re doing,” she added.

Martin was a provider at a previous assignment and needed only recertification in CPR and first aid. She also is pursuing a business degree though the University of Phoenix online and plans to enroll in the Early Childhood Education program with Harford Community College.

Martin is the mother of two, Skylar, 5, and Kenneth, 8.

She said she has four slots available for ages 2 to 4.

Ferneda Morelos

Morelos said she would like to get the word out that there is a Native American FCC provider in the APG community.

A resident of Bayside Village, she is the wife of Staff Sgt. Alfredo Morelos of the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment.

She said that after her “intense training,” she considers herself “very prepared and confident.”

“There is so much involved, you have to go by the regulations and SOP,” Morelos said,” but you learn so much. “I think it’s made me a better mother as well.”

Currently, Morelos is caring for one 5-year old. She said she plans to take on an infant in January.

20 years of caring

“I would like for parents to know that Family

See FCC, page 13

ARL scientists perform demonstrations at schools

Sheryl Coleman
ARL

Thirty-two volunteers from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory’s Weapons and Materials Research Directorate presented science demonstrations in schools in Maryland and Delaware during National Chemistry Week in October.

The volunteers went to 10 schools in Baltimore City and county, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent and Queen Anne’s counties and Delaware. They also visited a library in Baltimore City, and Cecil, Frederick, Harford and Howard counties.

National Chemistry Week is an American Chemical Society annual initiative to make young students more aware of science, especially chemistry. Chemists from all over the country participate in programs in their area.

The Army emphasizes educational outreach and ARL management endorses their scientists’ at WMRD participation in this program by doing hands-on experiments with students. ACS and ARL-WRMD co-sponsor and provide supplies for the events working with more than 1,500 students in October and November every year.

Drs. Sandra Young and Rose Pesce-Rodriguez, both of WMRD, run the ACS outreach programs in the local area. Young is vice-chair of the Maryland ACS chapter.

“Most science today is taught via book study (partly because of the focus on testing) instead of hands-on, which is not a good way to encourage young students,” Young said.

Participating in these outreach programs gives us a sense of real accomplishment when it comes to moving science forward in your student’s minds,

especially when we make it interesting and fun, Young and Pesce-Rodriguez agreed.

They have been involved with the outreach programs for more than five years.

“The students are skeptical at first about our programs,” Young said. “We hear comments like, ‘Do we have to do this,’ but the end result is often students asking when we’ll be back.”

The doctors realized early on that they had the same feeling of importance for the outreach programs and were determined to get others who felt the same involved, allowing the outreach activities to be held at more locations with a diverse group of students from around Maryland.

Each year the staff of volunteers grows allowing them to reach more schools and libraries. This year was a record year for the programs reaching a total of 2,620 students, doubling the record from previous years.

A joint effort with volunteers from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center ‘s Kids and Chemistry Program, professors from local universities such as Towson University and Villa Julie College and students from Morgan State University helped to make each outreach program a success.

“The hands-on science outreach helps to encourage young students by exposing them to the fun side of science allowing them to meet ‘real’ scientists, and perform out of the box,” Pesce-Rodriguez said.

This year’s theme was “The Joy of Toys” and demonstrations were held creating super balls and making rainbow bubbles.

During a presentation at the Bel Air Library, Young explained to the more than 60 students and 25 parents how rubber is made.

“The children should have a different more interesting perspective about science through Dr. Young’s fun and even more importantly, educational hands-on demonstration,” said Carolyn Christmer, Bel Air Library.

In addition to National Chemistry Week, hands-on efforts include Chemistry-in-the-Library and Materials World Modules, along with other random requests received throughout the year to meet and interact with students.

Chemistry-in-the-Library is a year-round rather than a once a year program in which libraries provide access to events for any interested students. The program is also co-sponsored by ACS and ARL, and reaches about 300 to 400 students per year.

Materials World Modules are science kits emphasizing the importance of materials science that teachers can use in their classroom. The kits are geared toward middle to high school level students and are in Harford, Cecil, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel county schools. Approximately 2,500 to 3,500 students participate yearly.

National Chemistry Week for 2006 is scheduled for Oct. 22 through 28. The theme will be “It’s Your Home: It’s All Built on Chemistry.”

(Editor’s note: More information can be found at <http://www.usaeop.com>, <http://www.materialsworldmodules.org> and <http://chemistry.org>. More information on Chemistry-in-the Library can be researched at http://mdchem.org/citl/CitL_main.html.)



Dr. Sandra Young, far right, U.S. Army Research Laboratory scientist, instructs students on how to make different types of bubble solutions and test which ones last the longest during National Science Week at Moravia Park Elementary School.



Youths at Children’s Manor Montessori in Ellicott City, make slime during National Chemistry Week as part of a U.S. Army Research Laboratory science outreach program activity.

Photos courtesy of ARL

The Highlands School – serving children with learning difficulties

Lisa Mack
CFC Chairperson

The APG Combined Federal Campaign will run until Dec. 14 since the installation’s goal of \$350,000 has not been met. Currently donations total \$225,168.26, approximately 64 percent of the APG goal.

There are many organizations to choose from in the 2005 Contributor’s Guide. One such organization is the Highlands School, CFC code 4471.

The Highlands School is a non-profit school for children in grades 2 through 8 with learning differences such as dyslexia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and language processing deficits. The school was established in 1996 and is located in Street, Md.

Due to the limitations of its current facility of a maximum of 40 students, the school has to turn potential students away. However, there is an \$8 million project to build a new school with accommodations for up to 125 students. So far \$2 million has been raised through cash and pledges.

The new location will be in the Bel Air area which will be

easily accessible from within Harford County as well as Interstate 95, making it an easier commute for families in Baltimore and Cecil counties as well.

The following is a testimonial showing just one example of the work accomplished by the Highlands School:

“Allow me to introduce you to a special young lady. Her name is Allison. She came to The Highlands School as a sixth grader reading at a third grade level. You see, Allison has a language processing disorder that does not allow her to process information in the same manner as you and I might.

“Today, after a year and a half of intense instruction in the way Allison learns best--using multi-sensory, systematic, sequential methods--we were able to share with Allison’s parents that their daughter is now reading at her grade level and will be ready to transition back to a traditional school setting.

“It is the only school of its kind in Harford County and the only school in the Baltimore region with a stated

mission of student remediation with the ultimate goal of a timely return to a traditional school.

“Not only has Allison regained her self esteem and realizes she is not “dumb,” but she can move on and continue to be successful in her educational career because she now understands how she learns best and can advocate for herself.

“This is how The Highlands School has made a difference in not just Allison’s life, but in the lives of more than 375 students who have passed through our programs since the school opened over 10 years ago. This program could not have been made available to Allison without the support of caring community members such as you and me.

“I ask you to join me in supporting Allison and others like her by contributing to The Highlands School through your contributions to the 2005-2006 Combined Federal Campaign. Your dollars are critical to the educational and scholarship programs that make this intense education affordable

See CFC, page 7

APG News

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SOLE awards first Master Logistician award

Rebecca J. Chisholm
APG News

The title of Demonstrated Master Logistician was awarded to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Paul M. Thurston 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion, by the International Society of Logistics (formerly Society of Logistics Engineers) in a ceremony Nov. 22.

A member of SOLE, Thurston earned the DML designation, the highest demonstrated designation available, because of his combination of continued education and performance as a practicing logistician.

It means that he demonstrated significant core logistics competencies through formal education, lifelong learning and work experience.

Presented by Sarah R. James, executive director of SOLE, the award is the highest of the possible designations in SOLE.

The Demonstrated Award is one that allows the logistician to offer up proof of their education and practical experience, achieving an award on one of three levels, for their work.

The other award, also in three parts, Certified Logistician, involves taking classes and an exam, to learn more about logistics.

Not only did Thurston receive the high award, but he is the first in the SOLE program to be awarded the DML since the program began in 2004.

The Demonstrated awards

and recognition of the excellence of the United States Army Reserve's logisticians and citizen Soldiers.”

Thurston’s commander, Maj. Mark R. Crisman added, “I’m amazed at his dedication to duty.”

Thurston, who began his career after graduating from Georgia Technical College in 1976, was commissioned in the Air Force.

He completed his master’s in public administration at Troy State University.

After some years in the Air Force, Thurston left the service and spent time working for Michelin North America as a logistician.

Later, he decided he wanted to finish a military career. Thurston enlisted in the Army National Guard in South Carolina in 1993.

Rather than join as an officer, he decided to be an enlisted man.

“There I learned the basics of the Army,” he said.

After a year enlisted, he joined the warrant officer program. In 2001, he joined his current unit at APG, where he remains one of the longest unit members.

“You can’t fight a war without logisticians, things just stop until we get there.”

- Chief Warrant Officer 3 Paul M. Thurston

were created by SOLE with the Army to be able to recognize combined learning and professional development and experience, to build a “truly world class logistician core,” said James.

“The presentation of this award means a lot to me personally,” James said. “I spent a major part of my career at both First Army and at OCAR. There’s nothing that brings more pride to my heart than to know that I’ve been able to contribute, in this special way, to the public acknowledgment

ECBC recognizes Warfighter respiratory protection technological contribution

Jennifer Gaskill
ECBC

The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center presented Dr. Joseph Rossin of Guild Associates, Inc. with a Performance Recognition Medal Nov. 15 for his contributions in expanding the protection factor of filtration material commonly found in protective masks, building HVAC systems, military vehicle air handling systems and other environmental control devices.

“Part of ECBC’s mission is to help the military and the civilian communities mitigate the effects of a biological or chemical terrorist attack,” said Jim Zarzycki, technical director of ECBC. “The protection of vehicles, shelters, fixed sites, and especially the people in them, is a critical part of our defense. Filtration material that can filter out a wide range of toxic materials plays an important role in protecting against chemical or biological contamination. Rossin’s

accomplishments are regarded as outstanding and we recognize and appreciate his commitment to ensure that the best filtration technology for respiratory protection is available for our military personnel.”

Working in collaboration with ECBC, Rossin was instrumental in developing a new class of sorbent structures, which are effective in removing toxic industrial chemicals and chemical warfare agents.

“These improvements are



Photo courtesy of CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 PAUL M. THURSTON
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Paul M. Thurston poses at the Baghdad International Airport in Iraq, where he was the Property Book officer; managing equipment and supplies for the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion in August of 2003.

Thurston plans to remain with the 203rd until his son graduates from high school in the next few years.

Currently, he is the property book officer for the 203rd, keeping track of supplies and equipment, and serving as the S4 officer as well.

The challenge of working with a multi-component unit, some being active, some reserve Soldiers, is one that Thurston finds fascinating.

“I enjoy the challenge,

working every day to keep things going,” he said.

With his passion for developing new logisticians, Thurston looks to find more support on post for SOLE, and is working on creating a chapter here.

“At the end of the day, it’s all about logisticians,” he said. “You can’t fight a war without logisticians, things just stop until we get there.”

With his time in Iraq, Air Force experiences, higher edu-

cation and Army career, Thurston earned his DML. But, he does not intend to stop there, instead he is looking towards becoming a Certified Master Logistician.

He feels that designations and awards are an important part of being a professional.

“It is important that people be recognized for what their abilities, knowledge and skills are. SOLE designations help, even when you shed this uniform,” Thurston said.



Emphasizing safety guidelines for the holidays

USAGAPG

It's that time of year when the hustle and bustle of the holiday season can overshadow the necessity of safety concerns. Here are some reminders to help keep holidays accident-free and safe.



Photo courtesy of www.state.nj.us
This could be the result if proper safety precautions are not taken concerning Christmas trees.

Trees, decorations

No live Christmas trees or live decorations includiing holly and other greens are allowed in barracks, offices, warehouses, shops, laboratories, aircraft hangars or instructional buildings

Artificial trees are permitted, but should not obstruct or block any aisle ways, corridors, hallways, or exits.

Decorations or trees must not be placed near any heat-producing device.

Live decorations are permitted in places of assembly, provided that they do not dry out, and must be removed from buildings by the close of business on Jan. 3. All other decorations must be labeled “flame retardant.”

Under no circumstances will candles be used, other than a place of worship.

Lights

Electric lights will be permitted on trees as long as they are UL listed. All electrical decorations must be rated to carry the electrical load of the appliances.

If the wiring has a short or has bare wires, the set will not be used.

Fireplaces

Do not try to burn evergreens or wreaths in the fire-place or in a wood stove to dispose of them. They are likely to flare out of control and send flames and smoke into the room.

Also, do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace because it often contains metallic mate-

rials, which can be toxic if burned.

Plants

Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat. But many plants can cause severe stomach problems.

Plants to watch out for include mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach.

Toys, gifts

Be especially careful when choosing toys for infants or small children.

Be sure anything they are given is too big to get caught in the throat, nose or ears.

Avoid toys with small parts that can be pulled or broken off.

When several children in one family are given toys, consider their age differences and the chances that younger children will want to play with older kids' toys.

Stress

The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year. Since stress can't be avoided completely, allow time for some relief. Allow enough time to shop rather than hurry through stores and parking lots. Only plan to do a reasonable number of errands.

When shopping, make several trips out to the car to drop off packages rather than trying to carry too many items.

Take time out to relax, read or enjoy a favorite hobby.

Clearing snow covered roads can cause damage to trees

International Society of Arboriculture

The winter season often brings heavy snowfall which makes the clearing of roadways necessary. Salt is great for clearing roads, driveways, and sidewalks of ice and snow; however, a good thing for streets and walkways can be harmful for trees, according to the tree experts at the International Society of Arboriculture.

"Excessive exposure to salt can cause widespread damage to your trees, leading to permanent decline and sometimes death," said Jim Skiera, executive director of the ISA. "The problem with salt damage is that it might not show up on your trees until summer, when deicing salt is the last culprit you would suspect."

To minimize the damage done to trees by deicing salts,

Certified Arborists at ISA offer the following tips:

- Use less salt. Mix deicing salt with abrasives such as sand, cinders and ash, or use alternatives such as calcium magnesium acetate and calcium chloride.
- Protect trees from salt trucks on the street. If possible, set up barriers between the street and trees to keep salt spray from hitting tree trunks.
- Plant salt-resistant trees.

Trees such as the sycamore maple, white spruce, willow, and birch tend to be more salt-resistant than other species. How well they fare varies from climate to climate across the country.

- Improve soil drainage. Add organic matter to the soil to help filter salt deposits.
- Keep trees healthy by taking care of their basic needs.

Other tips that will help combat the damage done by deicing salt include:

Irrigate to flush the salts from the soils in spring. Mulch sufficiently to reduce water loss.

Control pest infestations and destructive tree diseases.

If in doubt, contact a local ISA Certified Arborist.

The International Society of Arboriculture, headquartered in Champaign, Ill., is a non-profit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. As part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry.

For more information, and to find a local ISA Certified Arborist, visit www.treesare-good.com.

Community Notes

**FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY
DECEMBER 9-11
BEAUTY AND THE
BEAST**

The Tidewater Players present Beauty and the Beast, 8 p.m. at the Opera Hall, 121 N. Union Avenue, Havre de Grace.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for children.

Reservations are encouraged.

For more information or for reservations, call 410-939-5046 or e-mail tidewaterplayers@comcast.net, or visit the Web site at www.tidewaterplayers.com.

SUNDAY

**DECEMBER 11
BASKET BINGO**

American Legion Post 194, 336 E. Main Street, Rising Sun, is sponsoring basket bingo. Games start at 3 p.m.

Cost is \$10 for 20 games.

For more information call Donald K. Wehry Sr., 410-658-3915, or e-mail basketbingo@zoominternet.net.

Proceeds benefit Boy Scout Troop 28.

NATIVITY SCENE CONTEST

The Susquehanna Ministerium’s annual Nativity Scene contest period is Dec. 11 to Jan. 8.

Awards will be presented to the home and business with the best outdoor scene.

Judging will take place Dec. 27 to Jan. 8.

To enter, call 410-939-5233.

**MILK, COOKIES WITH
MRS. CLAUS**

Join Mrs. Claus for milk and cookies, noon to 4 p.m., at the Prime Outlets Center, located on 68 Heather Lane, Suite 46, Perryville, at the Holiday Headquarters next to Jos. A. Bank.

Mrs. Claus will tell some great stories about life at the North Pole.

**DECEMBER 10, 11, 17
SATURDAY AND
SUNDAY
PHOTOS WITH SANTA**

Prime Outlets at Perryville, located on 68 Heather Lane, Suite 46, Perryville, will hold Photos with Santa, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Holiday Headquarters next to Jos. A. Bank. Photos cost \$5 for a donation to benefit the Perryville Lions Club community programs.

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 17
BASKET BINGO**

Basket Bingo to benefit the Water Witch Fire Company will be held at VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit.

Doors open at 6 p.m., Bingo starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$10 per person for all paper cards.

Food, beverages, baked

goods, door prizes and raffles will be available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338.

LUNCH WITH SANTA

Eat lunch with Santa, noon to 2 p.m., at the Pilottown Rod and Gun Club, located on Belle Manor Road, Conowingo. Santa will provide goodies for all children. Cost of the lunch is \$3 per person and includes a hot dog with roll, chips, drink

MOVIES

**ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3.50, CHILDREN \$1.75
Building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard**

**To verify listing, call 410-272-9008, or visit
www.aafes.com and click on “Movie Listing”**

DOOM

Friday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

Starring: Karl Urban, Rosamund Pike, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson

At a remote research facility on Mars, a team of scientists crack the genetic code. But when communication fails, the place gets a Level 5 quarantine and the only people allowed in to investigate are the Marines of the Rapid Response Tactical Squad, including their commander, Sarge (Johnson). They discover that the researchers inadvertently opened up a portal to hell and unleashed a slew of demons. (Rated R)

THE FOG (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

Starring: Tom Welling, Maggie Grace, Selma Blair, DeRay Davis

Exactly 100 years ago off the rocky shore of an isolated Northern California town, a ship of lepers seeking refuge was betrayed by the town's founding fathers and burned, dooming everyone aboard. Now, the ghosts of the long-dead

mariners have returned from their watery graves to exact revenge. Shrouded within a supernatural fog, the ghosts trap the residents of the remote community, intent on seeking out the descendants of those who founded the town...and killing anyone who stands in their murderous path. (Rated PG-13)

NORTH COUNTRY

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 p.m.

Starring: Charlize Theron, Elle Peterson, Thomas Curthis, Frances McDormand

A fictionalized account of the first major successful sexual harassment case in the United States - Jenson vs. Eveleth Mines. Josey Aimes (Theron) is a young mother who leaves her abusive husband and returns to her hometown to start a new life and support herself and her two children. After Josey takes a job at a local mine, she's subject to nonstop sexual harassment from her male co-workers. Despite the risk of losing her job, Josey decides to put a stop to it by filing a lawsuit. (Rated R)

Post Shorts

To help accommodate residents with pets, a walk-in vaccination and microchip clinic will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dec. 8, at the APG Veterinary Treatment Facility, building 2479.

The clinic is open to all active duty, activated reserve and retiree military personnel who are eligible for services at the VTF (proper ID is required).

No appointment is necessary.

No sick-call available the day of walk-in clinic.

Services include feline canine distemper shots, \$14; feline and canine rabies, \$8; bordetella/kennel cough, \$13; FIV/FelV test, \$22.50; FeLV vaccination, \$13; heartworm and/or Lyme disease test, \$18; microchip, \$20. The user fee for all transactions is \$2.

For more information, call Tamra Warrington or Dodie McMillan, 410-278-3911.

Chapel presents, Sex, Love, and Relationships for youths

Today's youth are rarely told the whole truth about the consequences of sexual activity, experimentation and permissiveness.

Pam Stenzel will give a presentation on sex, love and relationships, 6:15 to 8 p.m., each Sunday through Dec. 11, at the Aberdeen Chapel.

This four-part video program will mince no words in showing how pervasive sexual permissiveness is in society. The program has helped thousands avoid the disastrous consequences of unwise choices.

The material is for all youths grades five through high school.

All youths must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Single Soldiers and parents are also invited to attend.

Registration is optional, but is appreciated.

For more information or to register, call the Main Post Chapel, 410-278-4333.

Model Railroad Club holds open house

The Model Railroad Club reopens after five years of rebuilding with open houses 7 to 10 p.m., Dec. 15 and 29 and 1 to 4 p.m., Dec. 18 in building E-5173 on Webster Road.

See article in next week's APG News concerning the club's 50th anniversary.

Blue Cross visits APG

The APG Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit Dec. 13, 9 to 11:30 a.m. in building 305, room 236, and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in building E-4811 (Seminar Area of Conference

Center) to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, call Teri Wright, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, 410-278-4331.

TRICARE briefing

Military families are invited to a briefing on the US Family Health Plan at Johns Hopkins, a TRICARE option, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Dec. 15, in the APG Recreation Center television room.

For more information, to schedule a private consultation or to make a reservation, call 1-800-808-7347 or 443-287-2529.

Volunteers needed on Minority College Team

To meet the minimum requirements outlined by DA, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Minority College Team needs volunteers.

The team meets quarterly to develop and administer aggressive outreach strategies that promote beneficial collaborative partnerships and relationships with minority serving institutions.

Anyone interested in joining the team should e-mail APG-MCRT@apg.army.mil.

Career opportunities for IO's

Functional Area 30 (Information Operations) is seeking highly motivated YG 1997-2002 officers for expanding IO opportunities in the Brigade Combat Teams, Divisions, Corps and Joint positions.

Interested officers in Year Groups 1998 through 2001 can request Career Field Designation by completing the online preference form at https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/opfamdd/cfd_Upcoming_boards.htm"CFD or for additional information, contact the Information Operations Career Management Officer, Maj. Gregory Mogavero, at gregory.mogavero@us.army.mil or 703-325-5791.

All other interested officers can request redesignation to IO through the HRC Information Operations Career Management Officer.

For more information, contact the U.S. Army Information Operations Proponent office at Fort Leavenworth, Lt. Col. Ken Krumm, 913-684-5318 or H. David Pendleton, 913-684-5320.

Marine Corps Fund offers scholarships

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is looking for a few good students to apply for scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$10,000.

Anyone interested can download applications from the MCSF Web site, <http://www.mcsf.org>, on Jan. 1.

To qualify for a scholarship, an applicant must be the child of a Marine on active or reserve duty, or the child of a retired or deceased Marine.

The children of Navy corpsmen who are serving or have served with the Marines are also eligible for scholarships from MCSF.

For more information on the eligibility requirements or how to make a donation to MCSF, visit <http://www.mcsf.org> or call 1-800-292-7777.

Vacancy at ChalleNGe Academy

Anyone looking for a challenging career working with teens between the ages of 16 and 18 need look no further. The National Guard Freestate ChalleNGe Academy based at Aberdeen Proving Ground is currently accepting applications for Youth Supervisor 1, a full-time position.

Starting salary is \$11.73 per hour. The position is currently contractual, but can lead to a permanent state position.

If interested call Cassie at 410-306-1839 or come to building 5469 to pick up an application.

WACVA Chapters 114 holds meeting

The Chesapeake Beacon, Chapter 114, of the Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association will hold its monthly meeting at the Aberdeen Library, 7 Franklin Street, 10 a.m. to noon, Dec. 10.

All women serving in the armed forces are welcome to attend and decide whether they would like to join the Women's Army Corps as regular members of the chapter (all women serving in the Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Army Nurse Corps, Women's Army Corps and Women's Army Auxiliary Corps), members-at-large (women who do not want to belong to a chapter at this

time), or associate members (women in the Air Force, Marines, Navy and Coast Guard).

For more information, call Wanda Story at 410-272-5040 or visit Web site www.wacva.com.

61st Family Readiness Group meets

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade Family Readiness Group meets the third Tuesday of every month.

Guest speakers discuss Army regulations, yard of the month, legal concerns, stress management, unit happenings and other audience-proposed topics.

This month's meeting is 6 p.m., Nov. 15, in building 4310.

For more information, call Capt. Ilya Dashevsky, 410-278-4567/4195.

USAWOA meetings

The Aberdeen-Edgewood Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association meets on the third Thursday of the month at noon in the Warrant Officer Hut located on School Street.

For more information, call retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Pete Hill, 410-278-4195.

KUSAHC offers Taking Care of Yourself classes

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic is offering "Take Care of Yourself Classes" on the third Thursday of every month at 10 a.m.

The next class will be held on Dec. 15. This class will teach you how to treat minor


illnesses and injuries and gain knowledge on when to see a doctor. After the class a Med Card will be given to class members which will allow them to receive over-the-counter medications from the pharmacy without an appointment.

To sign up, call KUSAHC, 410-278-1813, or report to the General Medicine Clinic on the day of the class and ask for Jane Blevins.

MCSC offers pies, membership

The Military and Civilian Spouse's Club has apple pies for \$7 in time for the holidays and gift-giving. Anyone interested can call Gloria DeBerry, 410-273-1926.

The club is accepting half year memberships at a cost of \$10. Anyone interested should call Sandy Matthews, 410-272-9130.



Chapel services

APG holiday worship services

Main Post Chapel

Dec. 25
Catholic services, 8:45 a.m.
Protestant services, 10:15 a.m.
Gospel services, noon

Hanukkah
Hanukkah will be held Dec. 25 at the Harford Jewish Center, 8 N. Earlton Road

Ext., Havre de Grace. For more information, visit www.harfordjewishcenter.org.

Jan. 1
Normal Sunday services

Jan. 8, Epiphany
Normal Sunday services
South Post Chapel

Protestant, 9:15 a.m.
Catholic, 10:45 a.m.

Correction

A vocalist in the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) photograph on last week's front page was identified incorrectly. The singer in the center is Sgt. John Lindsay.
APG News apologizes for the error.

CFC

From page 2

for families who have children with learning disabilities.”

The 2005 Contributor's Guide for national/international organizations is at Web site <http://www.cfcemd.org>. Paper

copies of the guide and pledge cards are available from each organization key worker or at the CFC Office.

For more information, visit the APG CFC Office at building 4302, or call Mary Cheek at 410-306-1625/1626.



Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Activities

Registration

Register for any MWR event by visiting the specific facility for the event, mailing in a registration form found in an MWR Program Brochure, visiting MWR Registration, building 3326, or visiting online at www.apgmwr.com.

Holiday Racquetball Tournament

A holiday Racquetball Tournament will be held 6 to 11 p.m., Dec. 15, at the Aberdeen Athletic Center, building 3300.

Competition will include round robin singles and men's and women's events. Four divisions include advanced, intermediate, beginner and novice.

Participants may only enter one event. Trophies will be awarded to the top three players in each division based on win/loss percentage.

Cost to enter is \$5 for military personnel and \$10 for all others. Register by Dec. 13 at MWR Registration, building 3326.

For more information, call Charles Heinsohn, 410-278-3868.

Christmas in Hershey

There's no place like Hershey for the holidays. Visit Hersheypark Christmas Candyland, through Jan. 1 for free. However, select Ride-All-Night and entertainment wristbands are available for purchase. Activities include the Chevrolet Music Box Christmas Show, a visit with Santa and his nine live reindeer, browsing village shops and more.

View the Hershey Sweet Lights from the warm comfort of your car and view 2 million sparkling lights on nearly 600

ed displays.

Nine themed areas are featured, including The 12 Days of Christmas, Nostalgic Victorian Winter Village, Enchanted Forest, Frosty's Wild Ride and more.

Cars and mini-vans cost \$19, vans and motor coaches cost \$34. Candyland will be closed Dec. 24 and 25.

Hershey Sweet Lights is a weather dependent event. For the most up-to-date schedule information, call 1-800-HER-SHEY.

'Support Our Troops' ornament pre-sale

A "Support Our Troops" limited edition ornament, reproduced from original artwork, can be pre-ordered for \$14.

This unique collectible features a "Support Our Troops" U.S. flag ribbon, and official logos of the Departments of Defense, Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Marine Corps.

The ornament is etched in solid brass, finished in 24-karat gold, and screen-printed with three colors.

A portion of the proceeds benefit the Fisher House, a national not-for-profit organization that provides temporary lodging for members of the armed forces, veterans, and their families during a medical crisis.

For more information, call MWR Registration, Tickets, and Leisure Travel Center, 410-278-4907/4011 or e-mail mwr_registration@usag.apg.army.mil.

Special Walt Disney World offer for military, DoD employees

Walt Disney World offers a special package at Select Disney Value Resorts through Feb. 15.

A standard room costs \$62 us tax, Dec. 11 Activated members who have been in the service anytime since 2005 also are eligible for this offer. Benefits include extra Magic hours – one of the 10 theme parks is one hour early; days open three days later (valid theme park admission and resort ID is required);

Disney's Magical Express service during the Happiest Celebration on Earth event; specially designed, supervised activity programs for children.

Military personnel and DoD employees must present proper identification at time of check in. Activated members of the National Guard or Reservists must show active duty orders at time of check in.

Additional per adult charges apply if there are more than two adults per room. No group rates or other discounts apply.

Advanced reservation required. Number of rooms available at these rates is limited.

Learn to build a personal Web site

Child and Youth Services and SKIESUnlimited will present Scratch-Building Your Own Personal Web Site, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Thursdays, Dec. 15 through Jan. 19, at the Edgewood Youth Center Computer Lab, building E-1902. Youths ages 11 to 18 are eligible to attend; youths 13 and under must have their parents register them. This is a Yahoo requirement.

An experienced professional in design, building and maintaining business Web sites will teach students to construct a personal Web site from scratch using the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, Microsoft FrontPage, Photoshop Elements and Yahoo's Geocities.

The objective will be for each student to have their own free Web site on Geocities that the whole Internet world can see.

Everyone is assumed to be a beginner in this six-week course.

Cost of registration is \$24. Register by Dec. 8. Call 410-278-7479/7571 for an appointment to register.

For more information, call 410-278-4589.

Great holiday gift ideas from MWR

When looking for something special for family, friends and neighbors, look no further than MWR. Special offers on movie theater tickets, entertainment books, White House Ornaments and more are available until Dec. 31.

Tickets to the National

Aquarium, Baltimore, costs \$16.50 for adults; \$9.25 for children ages three to 11 years; and \$13.75 for active duty military.

Entertainment Books (greater Baltimore area) cost \$26 each.

Loews Movie Theater tickets cost \$8 each and Regal Movie Theater tickets cost \$7.75 each. Tickets are good at any Loews in the United States, no expiration.

Support Our Troops Ornaments cost \$14 each and White House Ornaments cost \$16 each. Prices subject to change without notice.

For more information, call the MWR Leisure Travel Center, building 3326 at 410-278-4907/4011 or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil.

Disney on Broadway presents Tarzan

Disney presents Tarzan on Broadway, 8 p.m., July 7.

All U.S. military personnel and DoD ID card holders are eligible to receive special discount ticket priority offers on www.eventusher.com. Type in the password USAFB-WAYTIXS to purchase tickets. The last day to purchase

tickets is Dec. 17. Tickets will be shipped directly to the MWR Registration office. Ticket holders will be notified when tickets are received.

For more information, call MWR Registration, Tickets, & Leisure Travel, building 3326 410-278-4907/4011 or e-mail mwr_registration@apg.army.mil

Radio City Christmas spectacular

Travel to New York City to see the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes. Tickets for the performance on Dec. 17 cost \$121.

After the show, there will be time for holiday shopping.

Passport to Manhood

Passport to manhood, a program designed for young men, ages 9 to 16, will be held 6:30 to 8 p.m., on Thursdays.

All young men are welcome to come and learn about their future as men. Each class will feature a guest speaker.

Parents are invited to come and share this experience with their children.

The designated meeting date and time will be established pursuant to the availability and time of the parents.

Annual CYS memberships cost \$18 per child or \$40 per family.

Introductory sports playgroup

A new introductory sports playgroup program for Family Child Care youths will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Thursday at the Edgewood Youth Center, weather permitting. The program will not be held on holidays.

This program will launch children's interest in sports in a non-competitive fashion

For more information, call Chris Fielder, 410-436-2862.

Friday Social at Top of the Bay

Free munchies, music and games are featured at the Friday Social, 5 to 9 p.m. in the Down Under located on the lower level of Top of the Bay. Additional beverages and food are available for purchase.

Rock climbing, darts, cards and table tennis are featured. Participants could win prizes and trips.



LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

Operating hours of the Aberdeen Library, building 3320, are 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday and 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and closed on Friday. For more information, call 410-278-3417.

The following are a few of the new items available at the APG MWR Library:

The Arab Table: recipes and culinary traditions by May Bsisu

The Beauty of Color: the ultimate beauty guide for skin of color by Iman

Character is Destiny: inspiring stories every young person should know and every adult should remember by John McCain

Oh What a Slaughter: massacres in the American West, 1846-1890 by Larry McMurtry

Thieves of Baghdad: one marine's

passion for Ancient Civilizations and the journey to recover the world's greatest stolen treasures by Matthew Bogdanos

Why Men Never Remember, and Women Never Forget by Marianne Legato

The library's Web site, www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html, provides access to the library's online catalog and also has a complete annotated listing of the library's new material, as well as a list of available films on DVD.

SCHOOL LIAISON

NASA Space Camp applications being accepted

Applications are being accepted for the 2006 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp scholarship. Children of an active duty military parent enrolled in grades six through nine are eligible to apply. The scholarship is funded by the military Child Education Coalition.

Full tuition includes meals, lodging, program materials and transportation from the student's home base to nearest Space Camp.

The deadline for completed applications is April 1, 2006.

For more information or to apply for the scholarship, call Ivan Mehoskey, 410-278-2857, or visit Web site <http://www.militarychild.org/SpaceCamp.asp>.

SAT test dates set

SAT test dates for 2006 begin in January

and continue through June. Registration deadline and fee of \$41.50 is due Dec. 22, to take the SAT test on Jan. 28.


To register visit www.collegeboard.com or visit child's school guidance office.

The APG School Liaison Office, building 2752, room 111, has more information on SAT dates and fees. Call 410-278-2857.

Mentoring support needed


The APG School Liaison Program is currently seeking an APG organization that would be interested in mentoring elementary age students in grades 1 through 5 at the George D. Lisby Elementary School at Hillsdale in Aberdeen. The need is great and the reward immeasurable.

Anyone interested in providing support that can make a big difference in the life of a student, should contact Ivan Mehoskey, 410-278-2857.



Happy Holidays

from the Army Community Service staff



AA
Main Office
Building 2754
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
410-278-7572/7474




EA
Limited Service
Main Office
Building E-4630
Monday - Thursday
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Army Family Team Building Birthday
with cake cutting at the Commissary
Dec 16, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteer Gift Wrappers wanted
410-278-2464
Wrapping available until Dec 24

Army Volunteer Corps has openings
for you and your needs

The Self-Help Job Information Center
is available from Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Call ACS for more information.
410-278-2464







ASAP remains vigilant against drunk driving



courtesy of http://www.wa.gov/wtsc/drunck_driving.html

ASAP
The Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program staff reminds everyone that December is "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month" or "3-D Month," an effort to bring special attention to the problem of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
The focus this week is on drunk drivers—how to recognize one and what to do

when spotting one.
The APG Army Substance Abuse Program office reminds everyone to make responsible choices.
For more information, contact Jareta Coyle, alcohol and drug control officer, 410-278-3784 or visit the ASAP Web site, <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/services/asap/>.
What people can do to stop drunk driving
• Make a decision to drive responsibly.
• Make a decision never to ride with anyone who has been drinking to the point of impairment.
• Always buckle up — a safety belt is the best protection in a crash.
• Be a responsible drinker.
• Be a responsible party host.
• Be a defensive, alert driver and report suspected drunk drivers to law enforcement.
• Support efforts to strengthen anti-DUI laws in Maryland.
Spotting a drunk driver
Anyone who sees a car doing any of the following things, may be observing a drunk driver at the wheel:
• Weaving (across center lane, shoulder lane).
• Swerving.
• Almost striking a vehicle or other object.
• Unusually wide turns.
• Driving without headlights at night.
• Driving in opposing lanes or the wrong way on a one-way street.
• Slow response to traffic signals (slow start, fast stop).
• Driving substantially below the speed limit.
• Accelerating or varying speed for no reason.
• Stopping for no apparent reason.
If a drunk driver is spotted, do not attempt to stop the vehicle. Follow from a safe distance, take down the license plate number, description of the vehicle and the direction in which it is traveling, pull over and call area law enforcement officers.

Officer Candidate School Board announced

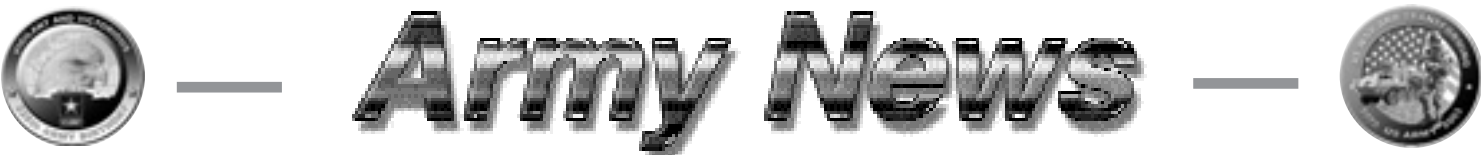
U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen

The U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Meade, will convene a board for Soldiers applying for attendance at the U.S. Officer Candidate School Feb. 9 and 10.
Along with the U.S. Military Academy and the Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Officer Candidate School remains an important source of commissioned officers for the Army.
The Army has increased the number of Soldiers who may attend Officer Candidate School.
Candidates apply through local boards-Fort Meade for

APG Soldiers-and those selected begin a rigorous, 14-week course of instruction at Fort Benning, Ga.
Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldiers who wish to become commissioned officers should prepare their applications early.
The key prerequisites for eligibility are:
• Be a citizen of the United States.
• Have GT score of 110 or higher.
• Pass the Army Physical Fitness Test, minimum of 180.
• Meet the height and weight standards of AR 600-9.

• Pass the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), minimum of 850 or American College Test (ACT), minimum 19.
• Have at least 90 semester hours of college study.
• Achieve a score of 80 or higher on the English. Comprehension Level Test (ECLT); if primary language is not English.
• Must be between 18 and 30 years of age (can waive age up to 42).
• Have a complete physical exam six months prior to date of application.
Completed packets must be submitted to Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

U.S. Army Garrison, building 305 no later than 10 Jan 2006.
Each application consists of one packet containing all original documents, and three photocopies of the original packet.
Additional information may be found in Army Regulation 351-5 (Officer Candidate School) or the OSC Web page, <http://www.armyocs.com/home/>.
For OCS application information, call Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen, 410-278-9820/3000 or e-mail deidre.taylor@usag.apg.army.mil.



Sony to recall 2 million CDs

Military.com

Stars and Stripes reports that about 2 million Sony BMG music CDs are being recalled after anti-piracy software embedded on the discs has been found to make computers running Windows products more vulnerable to hackers.
The CDs, released under 52 different

titles, install a program on Windows-based computers that limits the number of copies that can be made, such as is done with MP3 files.
There is no danger to those who use the products in CD players.
AAFES customers can return the product to their local exchanges for a full

refund or exchange the disk for the same title. AAFES expects to have replacement CDs in stores by mid-December. Sony BMG has instituted its own recall of the affected products, with details available on its Web site, <http://www.sonybmg.com/>.

White House offers Fellowship Program

Military.com

Military personnel may apply by Jan. 15 for the White House Fellowship Program that provides first-hand experience in how the government operates.
Up to 19 people are selected each year to work full-time for one year as special assistants to senior executives in cabinet-level agencies or in the executive office of the president.
Applicants must:

• Have 24 months time on station as of Aug. 1, 2006, or be returning from an overseas assignment from July 1 through Aug. 31;
• Have sufficient retainability to serve a three-year active-duty service commitment upon completion of the program; and
• Be available for reassignment.
Applications may be obtained by calling 202-395-4522, express mail at 202-

606-1818 or by writing to President's Commission on White House Fellows, 712 Jackson Place NW, Washington DC 20503.
For more information, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/fellows/>.
The program is open to all U.S. citizens, except those who are federally employed. There are no restrictions for age, sex, race or physical requirements.

MOAA offers college loans, grants

Military.com

Children of Military Officers Association of America members or enlisted service members under the age of 24 can apply online at MOAA's Web site for up to \$4,000 in interest-free college loans, which are awarded annually for up to five years of undergraduate study.
Eligibility for students over 24 who have served in a uniformed service before completing college will be increased by the number of years served, up to five years. Qualified students with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale are considered for selection based on their scholastic ability, potential, character qualities, participation in extracurricular and community activities, as well as financial need.
In addition to the interest free-free loans, MOAA will award 28 grants to college seniors who are current loan recipients in the program.
For MOAA Scholarship Fund applications for the 2006-2007 school year, or for more information on making a contribution to the fund, visit MOAA's Web site, <http://www.MOAA.org/education> or e-mail

<mailto:edassist@MOAA.org>. Students may apply online.

The application deadline is 12 p.m. EST, March 1.

APG closing announcements

If the installation is closed, is experiencing a delay in opening or if liberal leave is in effect due to weather or other emergency situations, check for postings on the local television and radio stations (listed below), WAPG-TV Channel 21 (on Aberdeen Proving Ground), or call 410-278-SNOW (7669). A recorded telephone message

will contain updated information and should begin at about 5 a.m.
Announcements about federal offices in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to APG; listen for those that name APG specifically.
For general information, call the APG Public Affairs Office, 410-278-1147.

Station	Frequency	Location
WAMD	AM 970	Aberdeen
WXCX	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WARM	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WBAL-TV	Channel 11	Baltimore
WMAR-TV	Channel 2	Baltimore
WBFF-TV	Channel 45	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13	Baltimore

Health

Avoiding illness through handwashing

Capt. Shanekia Cain
KUSAHC

‘Tis the season for colds, upper respiratory infections and influenza.

Communicable diseases can spread anytime by touching someone ill or touching a contaminated surface and then touching one’s own face.

One tool to prevent illness is handwashing. Good handwashing is the single most effective means of preventing the spread of disease according to the Center for Disease Control.

Most germs cannot be seen, so no one knows where they are hiding.

Hygiene principles

Wash hands whenever they are visibly soiled, before and after eating or handling food, after handling animals and garbage, after visiting or caring for sick people, and after using the washroom (especially when changing diapers)

Do not cough or sneeze directly into the hands, use Kleenex, and then clean hands, or sneeze into shoulder.

Do not put fingers into eyes, nose or mouth.

Good hand washing techniques include using an adequate amount of soap, rubbing the

hands together to create friction for at least 15 to 30 seconds (time enough to sing Jingle Bells), and rinsing under running water. Rubbing hands with soapy water pulls a lot of dirt and germs away from the skin. Singing the song aloud with children while washing hands will encourage them.

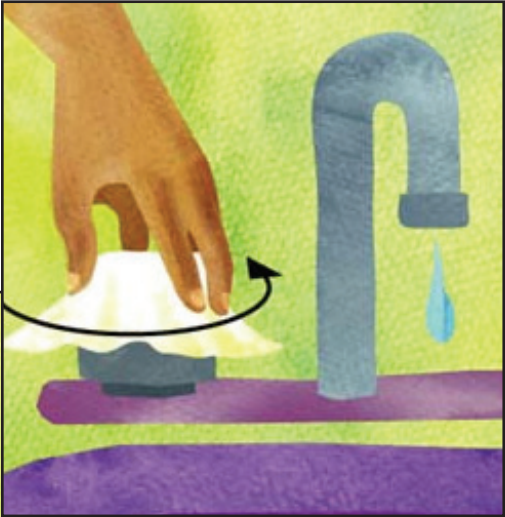
After rinsing, dry hands with disposable towels, not a common hand-towel.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are a second defense when soap and water is not readily available.

When using a hand sanitizer, also apply the 15-second rule when rubbing hands together.

Washing hands often can save money and misery from being sick.

Everyone should strive to put good hand hygiene principles into practice.



Courtesy of <http://www.global-healthychildcare.org/Download/HandwashingMobileChinese.jpg>

Being prepared for the next doctor visit

TRICARE Management Activity

The phrase “knowledge is power” is especially true when it comes to talking to a doctor. When a physician is informed about a patient’s medical and medication history, better decisions can be made concerning the patient’s health.

One of the best ways to prepare for appointments is to organize medication and medical history.

- Personal medical history: Make sure important information such as allergies, emergency contact(s), past and present medical conditions, etc. is current.

- Personal medication history: Keep medication history up to date and take it to all doctor appointments. Remember to include any over-the-counter and herbal medications.

- Help prevent problems: Sharing complete medical and medication profile with doctor so that possible risks and concerns can be identified.

- Learn about ways to save money: Discuss TRICARE Pharmacy benefits with the doctor so that when prescribing a medication he or she can decide if there is a lower-priced generic or brand-name medication that will work.

Visit www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE for more information on drug benefits or call 1-866DoD-TRRx.

More tips on communicating with a doctor

To remember the information given by the doctor write it down. If the doctor uses complicated medical terms ask him or her to write them down and explain them in plain lan-

guage. Before leaving the doctor’s office, ask for further explanation about anything not understood.

If there were questions not answered, say so. Make sure that any questions are answered to patient’s satisfaction.

Whether appointments are tomorrow or next month, make the most of the appointment. Share and discuss medications and medical information with the doctor.

Summary of annual TRICARE benefits

Register on PGBA’s Web site, www.myTRICARE.COM, and find easy-to-use online tools to simplify managing health care benefits.

One new feature is the annual summary of TRICARE benefits. This tool helps bene-

ficiaries see the value of their yearly TRICARE benefits at a glance. Available in calendar and fiscal year formats, this summary shows how TRICARE payments for health care were applied during the year. It includes amounts paid to providers, copayments, deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses, which comes in very handy for tax purposes.

To register, visit Health Net’s Web site, www.health-netfederalservices.com and on the claims page register as a myTRICARE.com member. Existing myTRICARE.com members can also access the annual summary of TRICARE benefits.

(Editor’s note: Article extracted from Healthnet Federal Services Special Bulletin Issue 4, 2005. See www.health-netfederalservices.com.)



Spc. Alexander B. Southard
Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center

With winter poking its frosty nose around the corner, most people will be spending more time inside, sheltering themselves from the bitter cold.

Work, however, doesn’t stop during the winter and many people will still be training, regardless of the harsh weather conditions they may encounter. Civilians will still have to travel to and from work, and many will work outside; some more than their military comrades.

‘Kids will continue to be kids,’ running amok in the snow and mud, making them more susceptible to cold injuries than many in the pop-

Fighting Jack Frost

ulation.

With these things in mind, ensuring the number of cold injuries remains low for the duration of the jolliest season of the year is key.

Types of cold injuries

Many people have experienced a cold injury [at one time or another in their life]. Most people are unable to identify some of the common signs and symptoms. Learning

what to look for ahead of time may help keep someone from succumbing to a cold injury, even save a life.

Chilblains are the most common type of cold injury, and are caused by overexposure to cold temperatures. A chilblain usually looks like a red, swollen lesion. Most eventually dry out, leaving small cracks in the skin, or disappear altogether. Some people refer to chilblains as “windburn.” People who have poor circulation, bad eating habits, or indulge greatly in alcohol prior to outdoor activities are most vulnerable to chilblains.

Frostbite, like chilblains, is caused by overexposure to extreme cold, but the damage to underlying tissues is more

extensive. The most often affected areas are the fingers, toes, nose and ears. If blood vessels are damaged badly enough, gangrene may set in and the affected part may have to be amputated.

Immersion foot, or trench foot, is a cold injury that may occur after prolonged exposure of usually two or more days to a cold and wet environment. Some of the symptoms may include a slow, weak pulse in the feet, leg cramps, a tingling pain, pale red swollen skin and blisters or ulcers.

Hypothermia is a medical emergency. When the body’s core temperature falls below 95 degrees Fahrenheit, its muscular and cerebral facilities become greatly impaired. A person experiencing this condition may go into shock. Symptoms may include slurred speech, violent shivering followed by pauses, irrational behavior and erratic breathing.

Anyone who appears to be hypothermic, should get professional emergency medical services immediately.

Cold-injury prevention

Like heat injuries, the best way to treat cold injuries is to prevent them from occurring in the first place. This doesn’t mean don’t go outside, but it does mean take the necessary precautions to prevent the time outside from becoming a time-out inside.

Hydration

One particular method of prevention that is often overlooked during the winter is proper hydration. People who fall victim to dehydration during the cold season often do so out of complacency.

Many people will “bundle up” for the cold weather. As a result they perspire and eventually become dehydrated if fluids aren’t being replaced.

Unit command groups, parents, and others should note this. It is everyone’s duty to drink plenty of water.

Foot Care

For those people who will be spending a great deal of time on wet ground, changing socks is of the utmost importance. Bring an extra pair (or two) of socks to work. Every few hours, check the feet for signs and symptoms of immersion foot. When socks get soaked through, change them.

Keeping warm

Hypothermia, chilblains, and frostbite can be prevented by protection from exposure to the cold.

There are many barriers that a person can establish between the body and the cold weather, namely, outerwear, cold-climate footwear, headgear and gloves.

Tight clothing is not a good idea in the winter, as it restricts the circulation of blood throughout the body as well as the circulation of air around

DOD Healthcare system renamed AHLTA

Nancy Ferris
OSD Health Affairs

The Defense Department’s \$1.2 billion health care information system got a new name Nov. 21.

From now on, the Composite Health Care System II, or CHCS II, is to be called AHLTA.

DOD officials said AHLTA stands for Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application, however, the system should simply be known by the acronym.

The change was announced in a ceremony at the National Naval Medical Center. With Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt and other top officials on hand, Assistant Defense Secretary William Winkenwerder said “this new health care information system called AHLTA” is a major accomplishment in military medicine.

Later, in a press conference, Winkenwerder acknowledged that the new system was CHCS II, only renamed. In fact, CHCS II has been under development since 1998 and has yet to be deployed to about 40 percent of DOD health care facilities worldwide.

Winkenwerder said he did not like the CHCS II name because it suggested that the system was not No. 1.

AHLTA, which will hold the health records of 9.2

million military personnel, family members and retirees, will be one of the largest and most advanced health information technology systems.

AHLTA is accessible from a laptop used in the Iraqi desert to a large military medical center. The same system and its contents will be available to military medical personnel worldwide.

Winkenwerder pointed out that AHLTA will be a companion to the Department of Veterans Affairs VISTA health information system. The two departments are increasingly exchanging digital health records on the people treated at their medical facilities.

One of AHLTA’s distinctive features is its support for structured notes on patients’ conditions and treatments. When a doctor or nurse enters notes in a medical record, the person is presented with options and can avoid typing much of the information.

Records created with structured notes, instead of raw text, are much easier to search through for information about patterns of disease, treatment effectiveness, possible bioterrorism incidents, said Col. Bart Harmon, a physician and AHLTA program manager.

For more information, visit <http://www.ha.osd.mil/AHLTA/>.

the body inside of the clothing.

Always dress in layers, and as the body warms up or the ambient air temperature rises, remove them as needed. Just remember to wear more than one layer.

Towelng off

Having a towel handy is important.

It can be used to dry feet, cover the face to block the wind (not after using it to dry your feet), as well as perform a great number of other tasks.

In the end, it all comes down to the individual person to ensure a low number of cold injuries. When in a cold envi-

ronment, check on buddies to make sure that they’re okay, and have them reciprocate. Armed with knowledge, the proper equipment, and the right frame of mind, fighting Jack Frost will be a walk in the park.

Your local medical treatment facility’s Preventive Medicine Service may be able to provide training for military and civilian organizations and will gladly assist in providing information for those who would like to train others on their own..

(Editor’s note: Adapted from a Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center release.)

Enrollment for Medicare Part D began Nov. 15

TRICARE Management Activity

TRICARE and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have teamed-up to provide Medicare Part D educational and enrollment information to TRICARE beneficiaries eligible for Medicare’s new prescription drug coverage. The enrollment period ends May 15, 2006.

Beginning Jan. 1, Medicare prescription drug coverage will be available to beneficiaries with Medicare Part A and/or Part B.

Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who do not enroll by May 16, 2006, will be able to enroll

annually between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31.

TRICARE-Medicare beneficiaries should compare a number of factors before enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan, including monthly premiums, deductibles, copays and drug coverage of several prescription drug plans to include the TRICARE pharmacy program.

Medicare prescription drug coverage plan options will vary by location.

For nearly all TRICARE-Medicare beneficiaries, under most circumstances, there is no

added value in purchasing Medicare prescription drug coverage.

The exception is for beneficiaries with limited incomes and assets who qualify for Medicare’s low-income subsidy. These beneficiaries may benefit by enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

TRICARE is considered creditable coverage, meaning it pays on average as much or more than a standard Medicare prescription drug plan.

If TRICARE-Medicare beneficiaries decide

not to enroll in a Medicare drug plan during the open enrollment periods, but change their minds later, they may do so without paying the late enrollment penalty.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage, beneficiaries may visit TRICARE’s Medicare Part D Web page, www.tricare.osd.mil/medicarepartd/; read the TRICARE Tip sheet at www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarereform/Tricare.pdf, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or visit the Medicare Web site, www.medicare.gov.



Army News



Policy emphasizes registering blogs through channels

Army News Service

This is not your father’s war, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker tells troops in a Nov. 10 videotaped message emphasizing proper Operations Security procedures and responsible use of the Internet.

The video is part of the Army’s comprehensive OPSEC Action Plan that has Mobile Training Teams visiting deploying units to teach how improper information and photographs posted on the Worldwide Web could endanger lives.

For instance, photos of combat operations and destroyed military equipment could provide the enemy with clues about U.S. vulnerabilities, said Maj. Michael Pate, the Army’s OPSEC officer at the Pentagon.

‘OPSEC is not censorship'

“This isn’t censorship,” Pate said about the OPSEC plan he had a key role in devising. “It’s about striking a balance between freedom of expression and protecting sensitive military information.”

In World War II and Korea, it took a long time for information to move from the battlefield to the public, Schoomaker says at the beginning of his video. Today with the Worldwide Web, it’s immediate with the push of a button.

CSA: Info-tech explosion global

“We have an information-technology explosion that is glob-

al,” Schoomaker said. “Our adversaries have the ability to take our utterances, our writings and our pictures and do all kinds of things to harm us.”

Web logs, or blogs, are a venue where instances of unauthorized photos and some sensitive information have been inadvertently disseminated, Pate said.

MNC-I first with blog policy

So the Multi-National Corps-Iraq headquarters came up with a policy for the increasing number of Soldiers posting blogs in theater. Some of the Soldiers found that posting a periodic blog to the Web was easier than sending multiple e-mails to friends and family. Others have found a modicum of fame for their descriptive coverage of life in the combat zone.

The MNC-I policy requires Soldiers to register their blogs through their unit chain of command. A list of blogs is maintained at the division level, complete with Web addresses and points of contact.

The policy also identifies established elements such as Army Web Risk Assessment Cells and Information-Assurance teams that assess Web sites and monitor information for compliance with Army policy. Such information includes classified info, casualty information before next-of-kin notification, info prohibited by the Privacy Act and details of incidents under investigation.

Commanders are able to develop their own OPSEC policy addressing blogs, Pate said, under the umbrella of Army policy and guidance.

OPSEC plan comprehensive

The Army’s new OPSEC initiatives are comprehensive and range from individual to institutional training, Pate said.

The Mobile Training Teams provide unit-level training, Pate said, to priority-one units scheduled to deploy. The MTTs come from the Army OPSEC Support Element established earlier this year out of the 1st Information Operations Command (Land), located at Fort Belvoir, Va.

MTTs recently visited the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to provide OPSEC instruction to one of its brigade combat teams at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Smaller units can access OPSEC training modules through Army Knowledge Online, Pate said. He said users can click on center right of the AKO front page on “Army OPSEC News,” sign in again using their AKO password and enter the OPSEC Portal.

The OPSEC Portal includes a number of Power-Point briefings that Pate said assist in satisfying OPSEC training requirements.

(Editor’s note: You can access the OPSEC website here. You will be prompted to provide your AKO ID and password.)

FCC

From page 2

Child Care is here for military and civilian parents,” said

Aphrodite Corsi, FCC director.

FCC providers are certified, have extensive background checks, participate in an ongoing training program and are monitored weekly by FCC

staff. Inspections by the Community Health Nurse, a nutritionist and Fire and Safety personnel occur routinely and staff members are always on call for technical assistance.

“You cannot find better small group care anywhere,,” said Hartgrove. “I am very proud of our program that has been active and viable since 1985.”

“Also, APG has the highest number of nationally accredited providers in the Northeast region of the Army, said Regina Dannenfelser, coordinator of Child and Youth

Services.

Personnel who work on post can call Central Registrar at 410-278-7571/7479 for information about openings and eligibility.

Mikulski

From front page

ATTI

The APG Science and Technology Board, APG Business Development Office and Maryland’s Technology Development Corporation have formed a collaboration to facilitate the transfer of technology.

As a dual-use program, the ATTI supports both the development of commercial tech-

nologies to meet the needs of the Army and the transition of military technologies to the private sector.

ATTI awards, typically \$50,000, will be made to for-profit small businesses in support of technology development projects that fall within the scope of the ATTI. Eligibility for an ATTI award requires a technology transfer agreement with an APG organization.

Funding is based on a scope

of work with milestones and deliverables and funds must be used by the small business for costs in executing the ATTI project.

Funding for the ATTI is provided by Congress through the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command.

For more information, contact the APG Business Development Office, 410-273-5062.

ECBC

From front page 3

to 2005, key sorbent materials and filter bed designs have been developed and successfully transitioned for Low Rate of Initial Production. Rossin’s class of sorbent compositions are being demonstrated in variants of the M98 and M48 filters under the Joint Collective Protection Equipment and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency programs, as well as a number of filters by international manufacturers such as those located in the United Kingdom.

The Department of Defense regards protecting the U.S. Warfighter during a chemical event as a major priority, and a primary element for insuring maximum safety to personnel and sustainment of military operations. A critical component in the suite of chemical defense materiel is the capability to provide individual and collective respiratory protection to soldiers through the use of filters for masks, shelters and vehicles. The ability to provide clean breathable air to the Warfighter in a contaminated environment rests solely and uniquely on the performance of sorbents contained in filters.

Gangs

From page 5

Bloods (the red wearing gang), you’ll get beat down.”

Edgewood is a Bloods area, said Alkanowski, warning the youths that wearing blue in certain parts of Edgewood could find them in the hospital after a gang scuffle.

The same goes for Aberdeen, a Crips area. “If you were to unknowingly wear the wrong color in areas such as Aberdeen and Edgewood, you could face dire consequences,” Alkanowski said.

Why kids join gangs

“In this culture, gang culture,” said Alkanowski, “they’re doing it for the reputation and the quick money. Standing on the corner three or four hours a night selling drugs is quicker money than working eight hours a day.”

Youths who lack structure at home are more likely to join a gang, according to Alkanowski. “They desire the militaristic rank and file that the gang life offers, as well as the funds and status that being in a gang provides.

“Gangs ‘seem’ to provide all the things that those attracted to them are searching for,” Alkanowski said.

And the age for joining gangs gets younger and younger each day.

“I’ve locked up 10 and 11 year olds for holding crack for drug dealers,” Alkanowski said. “You will not be in a gang and not commit a crime.”

Why gangs are becoming more mainstream

Blaming the media for the recent spike in gang violence and apparent acceptability of the gang lifestyle, the officers spoke about the new prevalence of gangs in the world.

“Some argue that fashion, mass media and the behavior of public icons directly influence youths toward gang involvement,” said Alkanowski.

The Source, a magazine, will have two versions out each month, one red, one blue, one with ads geared towards Crips, one geared towards Bloods. The ads featured depend on the gang.

Calvin Kline, the fashion designer, is marketed towards Bloods, as CK means Crip Killer. British Knights, a shoe company, is marketed towards Crips, as BK is Blood Killer.

Not only does the media cater to the gangs, said Alkanowski, but gang members have become prominent members of society, and role models to youths. These include Snoop Dogg, a rapper, and the ever ironic Ice-T, another rapper who rose to fame with the song “Cop Killer” and who now plays a police officer on “Law and Order, Special Victims Unit.”

Fashion brands like CK have been taken over by gangs. FUBU, a clothing brand marketed as “For You, By You,” now means “F*** You, Bloods Up” in the gang culture.

Also pinning gang violence on mature video games, Alkanowski spoke of video games promoting a culture of violence.

“The more we’re exposed to violence on a regular basis will reinforce the violent tenden-

cies in us,” he said.

What gangs look like

Around here, said Alkanowski, gangs have little allegiance. Because the Bloods and Crips are fairly new to the area, members switch sides whenever it suits them. There is a looser structure in this area as well.

“What up cuz?” is a common statement that Crips use to identify each other. Other gang members know how to reply.

Gang members commonly have tattoos symbolizing their involvement. Hispanic gangs, around here the MS13’s, frequently have tear drops tattooed on their faces, as well as the letters MS. The Bloods will have dogs and dog paws etched into them.

Using clothing to identify their membership, the Crips wear blue and will wear their pants with the right leg rolled up. The Bloods sport red and will wear their left pant leg up.

Gang graffiti, or “tagging,” is becoming more and more common in the area.

“Report, record and remove graffiti,” said Alkanowski.

When graffiti is left, it lets the gang members know that the neighborhood is not going to fight back against gang activity, he said.

MS13 graffiti was spotted on a hotel in Belcamp as it was being built. It is important to let the police know what graffiti is in the area and to then clean it up.

A couple of instances of “tagging” was also located on Flag Court in Patriot Village on APG.

“Shortly after the Community Policing Office was established in late August, some “gang-like tagging” was found during a walk through of the housing area,” said Community Policing Officer Mike Farlow. “The proper procedures were taken and the situation was taken care of.”

Anyone who finds anything they think may be “tagging” is asked to call the APG Police.

The outcome of the gang lifestyle

“One of two things is going to happen,” said Alkanowski of gang life. “You’re going to wind up in jail or wind up dead.”

Gang members very rarely leave the organization unscathed, if at all.

How to know if a child is in a gang

- They begin wearing certain colors and never wear others.
- They start going out late at night.
- They come home with money or goods that they cannot afford.
- They begin writing B’s or C’s with lines through them.
- They have new friends who call them by a nickname.
- Problems develop in school with grades and/or discipline.
- They use language and hand symbols with their new friends that non-gang members do not understand, and laugh it off as something all the kids do.
- They have tattoos.
- Gang related graffiti is found in school books and other property.
- Unexplained injuries appear on a youth’s body.*

These are not all of the signs that a child is in

a gang. By keeping an open dialogue with the child, and by keeping an eye on their activities, parents can avoid problems later.

*Initiation into a gang entails “jumping in.

“In most cases a prospective gang member will be sponsored by a current gang member,” said Dawn Fischer, chief, Investigative Services Division, Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security. “The prospective member may be required to perform an “act” worthy of membership, followed by a “jumping in.” Simply stated, the other gang members will jump that person and beat them.”

Gang activity has emerged in Harford County, especially in the areas surrounding APG.

On APG, Detective Christopher Real is heading up the APG Gang Task Force and can be reached at 410-278-3609 or fax 410-278-7253. He works closely with the Harford County Gang Task Force.

“We are determined to prevent any gang from getting a toe hold on APG,” Real said.

The APG Police plans to host a gang and drug trends class for local law enforcement personnel in February.

Gangs in the military

Although Soldiers are reporting to APG with markings of gang membership, it is not known if they are current gang members or not.

“There are a couple of reasons that Soldiers sporting “gang” tattoos would be in the military,” Fischer said.

“What better way for a gang member to be trained

in ambush tactics and weapons, and then after a few years in the military return to the gang to train the members on lessons learned. Another reason could be that the member is trying to break all ties with the gang in search of a meaningful lifestyle.

“We just don’t know at this point, but we are keeping a watchful eye on it,” she said.

Parental reminders

“Parents must be aware of the dangers and take them seriously to keep their children safe. Parents also need to watch what their young children listen to, read and play,” Real said.

Violence in the media has increased over the past decade, and some children who already exhibit danger signs, are easily influenced by bad examples.



“Tagging” with a gang’s name is a common way of marking a gang’s territory.



An inspection in the late summer in the Patriot Village area of APG reveals suspected gang activity on the installation.

